

## The Punta Gorda Herald

A. F. JORDAN ..... Editor

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THURSDAY, FEB. 27, 1908.

Because THE HERALD favors Col. Barwick for senator, is no reason why it may not speak kindly of Senator Humphries.

Senator William J. Bryan is receiving from the press a good deal of deserved praise. He's a fine fellow, and it's a pity he doesn't live in Pensacola or Tampa.

The most utterly despicable way of attacking a candidate or any one else is by innuendo and insinuation. We are glad to note, however, that not half a dozen newspapers in Florida are guilty of this sin.

The Fort Meade Observer says that Hon. J. N. C. Stockton is the candidate of the corporations and that he has been identified with them for years. Now, Mr. Stockton's organs will proceed to say things highly derogatory to the Observer.

Florida newspapers are becoming rich in unique expressions. Gov. L'Engle, of the Sun, for example, alludes to that excellent newspaper, the Jacksonville Metropolis, as a "mongrel misde-monor in the form and guise of a newspaper."

Prof. J. C. Compton, of Leesburg, suffered last week an attack of nervous collapse and his condition is said to be such as will likely prevent his running for State superintendent. We sincerely deplore his illness, but hope for his speedy and complete recovery.

Straub's cartoons of his neighbor Powell must make life in St. Petersburg one continuous festival of cachinnations. He supplements his cartoons with the remark that his neighbor's heavy editorials are "chaos in type." Then they must be good to eat, if not to read, as typographical chaos is pi.

The Fort Myers Breeze has succeeded in proving to its own satisfaction that General Gilchrist is not the right man for governor, and THE HERALD has clearly shown that Mr. Stockton is not the right one either. Accepting these conclusions, the Breeze, to be logical, should support Hon. Jefferson B. Browne.

Senator Jos. H. Humphries has announced for re-nomination. Whatever other people may think of him, and whatever policies he may represent, the editor of THE HERALD esteems him highly and will vote for him but for his action on county division. In this action, it may be interesting to know that both Senator Humphries and Col. Barwick are consistent prohibitionists.

### An Obstinate Fellow.

In the opinion of some friends, the editor of THE HERALD possesses the chief characteristic of the famous Collins ram. Gov. Claude L'Engle, for example, prints this in his ring organ of the 22nd:

"When I met Albert Gilchrist in Jacksonville the other day, I told him that he had better regulate that red-headed editor down there in Punta Gorda, because the people were holding him, Albert, responsible for what Jordan said, just as they are holding the railroads responsible for what the Times-Union says. Not for the same reason, however, because I do not believe that Albert owns all of the PUNTA GORDA HERALD. Albert replied that he could do nothing with him."

Regarding the above, several things may be said: First, if a good friend, a brainy and high-minded gentleman like Gen. Gilchrist, cannot control Jordan or his HERALD, Gov. L'Engle should in honor acquit the editor and his paper from the imputation of being influenced or controlled by corporations, which is Gov. L'Engle's only argument(?) against the newspapers whose conduct and views he does not approve.

Second, we have stated before and we assert it again with added emphasis that Gen. Gilchrist is in no wise responsible for anything that appears in this paper, save what is published over his own signature.

Third, notwithstanding Gov. L'Engle's insinuation to the contrary, the Jordan children are sole owners of THE PUNTA GORDA HERALD and neither Gen. Gilchrist nor any one else, save those children, has the slightest proprietary interest in it. Further, the paper is entirely out of debt and owes no one a cent for borrowed or donated money. There is a mortgage on the office building, but it is not held by Gen. Gilchrist and we doubt if he knows who the mortgagee is. Finally, while on this subject, we will astonish Gov. L'Engle and other solicitous friends by stating the fact that the mortgage is held by a Republican.

### Good Brother Hare.

Brother Hare, the extremely conscientious editor of the Arcadia News, permits his kindness of heart to obstruct his usual clearness of mind. He writes a huge editorial to protest that the great developer, Henry M. Flagler, who is 78 years of age, is too old to be dragged into our present political controversies and that some of us are cruel or thoughtless in profaning his name in print, as in the publication of that letter written to him by Hon. J. N. C. Stockton.

Our good brother is assured that not a word derogatory to Mr. Flagler has ever appeared in this paper under its present management, and the publication of that letter was made necessary to substantiate the charge that Mr. Stockton was inconsistent in posing as the people's chief friend against the corporations and, at the same time, seeking to conciliate and hold the good will and support of Mr. Flagler, who is a noted Standard Oil and railroad magnate.

The letter was not published at the instance of any candidate, but in compliance, as stated, with the demand of the Tallahassee Sun that it be produced. It is nobody's business how the copy was procured; it is enough to say that THE HERALD wrote to Jacksonville for it and got it from there.

Finally, Brother Hare should note the fact that Mr. Claude L'Engle seems to be the only newspaper man in Florida who is printing things derogatory or disagreeable to Mr. Flagler.

### Government by Commission.

The esteemed Times Union has drawn an erroneous conclusion from a paragraph recently appearing in these columns, in which it was argued that the legislature, being a positive incubus upon the State, should be abolished and government by commission substituted.

In its issue of the 19th, the Times-Union makes the paragraph the text of an editorial and concludes:

"THE HERALD reasons; Some legislators have been corrupt and some legislatures are convicted with folly—down with all legislation and give us mobocracy or any other old thing, however much discredited by experience."

Nay, good brother; THE HERALD does not wish mobocracy nor did it suggest an "old thing" in proposing government by commission. We think we remember having read that that mode of government raised Memphis from poverty and desolation to one of the healthiest, finest and most prosperous cities of the country, and it proved so satisfactory in the case of Galveston that other cities not wrecked and ruined by pestilence or tempest, clamored for it.

If good for cities, why not for states?

The people should choose a governor and cabinet (or executive) officers, five to seven men in all, and these should constitute the state government and be charged with the execution of existing laws. If any new laws are needed or desired, a petition signed by a certain number of property owners reciting what is desired, should be sent up to the state officers, who, in turn, should put the proposed law in form and submit it to a vote of the people. If a majority vote for it, the state officials should promulgate it as the law of the land. If disapproved by popular vote, it should not be again proposed for ten years.

Under such government, it is not intended to dispense with courts and county officers, but continue things as they now are, with any improvements that may be devised.

The above is THE HERALD's idea of state government by commission, and we submit that it is neither mobocratic nor anarchistic. It would at least save the State the expense of a legislature, which in Florida has proved to be a useless and costly incumbrance.

### Uphold the Law.

The esteemed Pensacola Journal devotes one of its heavy editorials to a fatherly rebuke of THE HERALD for giving a quasi-approval to that Newberry lynching on the ground that our pardoning board will not permit murderers to be hung "by due process of law." The rebuke, having been administered in the most gentlemanly manner, is cheerfully accepted, but we beg to assure the Journal that THE HERALD is as much opposed to lynch law as any newspaper in the land. Its comments on the Newberry lynching were intended not so much to encourage the mob as to discourage the pardoning board in its successful attempts to defeat justice, by pointing to the lynching named as a result of the board's past conduct.

We really think that the pardoning board is doing more than THE HERALD to encourage mob law in Florida; indeed, THE HERALD is trying to get the board to change its conduct for the very purpose of discouraging the lynching spirit and fostering respect for the law and its administration. We are willing to admit, however, our awkwardness or causticity of expression may cause misunderstanding, as in the case of the Journal, and lead to incorrect and undesigned conclusions. Let the law be upheld by the pardoning board as well as by the press and the people; that is the doctrine which THE HERALD is seeking to impress.

## A Variety Show

Is what we present to your attention in our large case of Toilet Soaps. We show a variety of Toilet Soaps that includes the best soaps made. These high grade soaps are the products of research by eminent chemists and skin specialists and combine ingredients most beneficial to the skin with a pure soap base. In this class are

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Punta Gorda,

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Schooner "ROAMER," Length 62 ft., Breadth 18 ft., Depth 5 ft. 22 tons net.

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Punta Corda,

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